

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, and 11 have been amended herein, and claims 2-3, 5-10, and 12-17 depend from the amended claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claims 1, 4, 11, and 18 have been amended herein, and claims 2-3, 5-10, and 12-17 depend from the amended independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawata (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,777).

Kawata discloses a digital data processor executing a sorting sub-instruction by completing multiple complex cycles through complex pipeline circuitry – (1) a fetching cycle, by reading a sorting sub-instruction to an instruction register; (2) a decoding cycle, wherein the instruction functions by applying the contents of source fields of the sorting sub-instruction to a first control circuit, and storing the contents of the registers specified by control signals of the first circuit in input registers, at the same time latching by a first latch fields specified by a selection criteria field; (3) an operating cycle, by applying a field of the sorting sub-instruction to a control circuit from a latch, applying a signal so that subtraction instructed by the sorting sub-instruction will be performed, sending and recovering data, subtracting input data from buses for

comparison and setting a sign first; and (4) a writing cycle by applying the content of a latch to control circuit, preparing a control signal from a sign bit of a conditional code register, preparing a selection signal, selecting the content of a temporary register based on the value of an applied control signal, and outputting the selected data (column 4, line 14 – column 5, line 9; figure 1).

Kawata does not teach or suggest the invention as set forth in amended claims 1, 4, 11, and 18, wherein the basic block (e.g., FB1 in FIG. 1) consists of two-stage parallel basic cells, and the number of basic cells in the first stage of the basic block is larger by one than the number of basic cells in second stage of the basic block, as disclosed in Fig. 1, for example. The number of basic cells in the first stage of basic block FB1 is 4 (i.e. 10-(0) to 10-(3)), and the number of basic cells in the second stage of basic block FB1 is 3 (i.e. 10-(4) to 10-(6)). By defining the number of the basic cells in first and second stage, the invention as claimed distinguishes over Kawata.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-10 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawata in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,667). Since these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claims, it is submitted that they are patentable in view of the patentability of the independent claims as set forth above.

Dependent Claims

In view of the patentability of the underlying independent claims over Kawata as set forth above, it is submitted that the claims depending therefrom are likewise patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted in view of the above that there is no teaching or suggestion of applicant's invention as claimed in the claims submitted herewith, within the scope of the disclosure of the cited reference, without extensive modification and the exercise of inventive talent.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to issue. If there are any issues which can be discussed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at (310) 242-2732.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee relating to this response to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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